



## **MCDD QUICK NEWS**

**Here's What's Happening in Council Offices  
for the month of February 2006**

### **Council Sets Areas of Emphasis for 2007-2011 Plan**

Education, Employment, Self-Determination and Community Inclusion have been approved by the Council as the four Areas of Emphasis the 2007-2011 Long Range Plan will work within. The Council will not be considering any concepts outside of these areas, with the exception of a ten-thousand dollar Call for Investment in Innovative Concepts. The Planning Committee and Council members are working with facilitator, Becki Brandborg over the course of this year to refine the Council's focus for financial decisions and outcomes. A Planning Retreat was held in mid-January which provided for a wealth of concepts and ideas to be brought forward for Council consideration.

At the January 26-27 Council meeting members approved the issuance of four Calls for Investment, they are:

CFI in Transition Training	50K-60K
CFI in for a Self-Advocacy Organization Run by Self-Advocates	60K
CFI for a Statewide Leadership Program for Youth with Disabilities	20K
CFI for Innovative Concepts	10K

The Calls are currently being reviewed and edited and will be officially announced after the March Council meeting. A Bidders Workshop will be held at a later date to be announced in the Call for Investment. Deadline for submission of proposals will be May 22, 2006. Calls for Investment will be posted on our website [www.mtcdd.org](http://www.mtcdd.org) and hard copies will be available.

### **Testimony for MT Youth Leadership Requested**

There will be a public hearing on Friday March 3, 2006 from 1:00-2:30pm for the Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Public Health and Human Services. The funding the Montana Youth Leadership Forum received

in the 2005 Legislative Session is contracted through Vocational Rehabilitation.

Vocational Rehabilitation needs to hear from interested parties that this program is valuable and has support from across the state. The hearing will be held by video conference so you can go to one of the eight locations listed below should you wish to testify.

The Council has supported the MT Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) for several years and has seen the excellent work and results the program delivers. If you have the time and would like to provide oral testimony at the hearing I'm sure it would be greatly appreciated. I would imagine written testimony would also be accepted at the Department of Public Health and Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, PO Box 412, Helena, MT 59620. Locations for the video conference are:

Billings, MSU-Billings 214 N. Broadway, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room  
Bozeman, MSU-Bozeman, EPS Bldg (7<sup>th</sup> & Grant), Burns Center Rm 126  
Butte - MT Tech & #151; 1300 West Park, ELCB Rm 225  
Great Falls - College of Technology, 2100 16<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Rm B-133  
Helena - DPHHS, 111 Sanders St, Lower Level Auditorium  
Kalispell - FVCC, 777 Grand View Drive, Learning Resource Ctr Rm 120  
Missoula - UF, Gallagher Bldg, Rm 104  
Miles City - Miles Community College, 2715 Dickenson Drive

### **MT Youth Leadership Forum Recruiting for Participants**

The Montana Youth Leadership Forum is gearing up for the 2006 Summer Session scheduled for July 17-21 in Helena. Applications are available either by contacting the Youth Leadership Forum at [www.montanaylf.org](http://www.montanaylf.org), [mylfjune@bresnan.net](mailto:mylfjune@bresnan.net) or 442-2576. Applications are also available by contacting Council offices at 1/866-443-4332 or 443-4332. Application forms must be postmarked by March 3, 2006 for consideration.

Specifically the youth leadership forum is recruiting for twenty high school sophomores, juniors and seniors will be selected, there will be no expenses for selected delegates and they will get to participate in an exciting, fun and educational four-day training program.

To be eligible for the Montana Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, students must a) have a disability (as defined by the ADA), b) be in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade as of December 31, 2005, c) must have demonstrated leadership potential in school and in the community and d) reside in Montana.

If you know of someone who you believe would benefit from this outstanding opportunity and meets the eligibility requirements, please encourage them to apply.

## **Agnes Piddlestop Attends January Council Meeting**

The Council had a distinguished visitor at our January Meeting. Noted and well-dressed, radio talk-show host, Agnes Piddlestop traveled from California to discuss commentary from her non-syndicated program with Council members. Council members discussed their feelings regarding language often used to describe persons with disabilities with Ms. Piddlestop. After a lively discussion, Ms. Piddlestop engaged members in a physical "test" to perhaps prove or disprove some of her theories. All Council members gladly participated, even those who shared they had a diagnosis.



Council Chair Jan Wenaas welcomes Agnes to the Council meeting.



Jason Billehus shares his views on self-determination with Agnes.



Agnes wants to know what's the difference between her and Mamie. Agnes.



Dan discusses his diagnosis with Agnes.



Agnes has all the members on their feet.



Barb Olind and Sister Johnelle Howanach take the test.

Imagine our surprise when we discovered Agnes Piddlestop was really Raylynn Lauderdale of the Montana Advocacy Program. Raylynn uses her character Agnes Piddlestop to teach disability etiquette and people first language and performs at various functions across Montana.

## **Former Member Othelia Schulz Attends January Meeting**

Othelia Schulz shared with members another of her many talents when she displayed her velvet quilt made from her husband Bob's many neckties. Othelia shared there are over 300 neckties making up the quilt and hundreds of hours of her skill in creating this work-of-art. With the exception of the stitching together of the neckties, all the other work on the quilt was

done by hand. Congratulations and thank you Othelia for sharing what is truly a work of art !



### **MEET THE MEMBER**

Over the course of 2006 we'll spotlight all the members of the MCDD. Our February features are Barb Olind and Ramona Weber. Unfortunately we were unable to make connections with Ramona, but we'll keep trying and feature her soon in the coming months! We recently caught up with Barb and here's what she shared with us.



**Barb Olind**

**Tell us about yourself, your family, pets, etc.**

I am a Montana native born in Big Horn County, near St. Xavier, MT. I will attend my 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion in June of this year, and I have been married fifty years. I enjoy music, reading, tole painting, various crafts, sewing and enjoy making cookies! I have worked the past 21 years in travel as an outside sales representative for a travel agency out of my home office. As a result of the travel and dietary work I have been to 27 states and major cities in the US and to Australia twice, 1993 and 1998, and the top half of New Zealand on our second trip to Australia.

I was a stay at home wife and Mom for the first few years of my marriage. We lived and worked on the Campbell Farming Corporation where my husband George was the ranch foreman. Campbell Farming was the largest wheat farm in the work at one time. It was twelve miles one-way and five-gates across the prairie and wheat fields to school. I took a job as the school

lunch cook at Ft. Smith (Yellowtail Dam) and did this for five years before moving to Hardin for our oldest son to begin high school. I worked in Hardin for a year as a teacher's aide and for one period a day in the Special Education resource room. May I say Special Education has come a long way from what that classroom experience was thirty-five years ago. In September 1974 we moved to Baker where I worked as the Dietary Manager/Supervisor for Fallon Medical Hospital & Nursing Home.

We have three children Casey Lee who is 47 is married and works for Pool, a company working with the oil industry. He and his wife Loretta have three children daughters Jodi age 22, Kayla age 15 and son Jesse age 8. They live in Rhame, N.D. Our oldest daughter Barbara "Joene" is 45 and is an x-ray technician who works in a federal prison. She and her husband Walter have two sons Tom age 13 and Joe age 11. Wendy Lou 35 is our youngest daughter. She had many accomplishments during her school years. After high school graduation Wendy lived in group and foster homes for fifteen years. Wendy has been living with us for the past four years. Wendy has a franchise of Lissie's Luv Yums, a gourmet dog biscuit business which has been very successful for the past 18 months. Our son James "Jim" was our first born who the good lord allowed to be with us exactly 24 years. He was killed in a car accident on his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. Jim and Wendy had a very special relationship, and all our children are very close. Needless to say the loss of Jim left a huge void in all our lives.

**How did you find out MCDD? Regional Council experience, provider experience, etc.**

I would like to say here I am so honored and proud to be a part of the MCDD. The members of this Council are simply an awesome group of folks from across Montana. Together with MCDD Director Deborah Swingley and her very capable staff Dee are superior in their excellent expertise and direction is first and foremost what makes this Council a success.

I learned about MCDD by participating in Partners in Policymaking. I thought that MCDD is where I needed to be. I have taken and read everything I could to learn more as how to help Wendy. I attended Eastern Montana Industries meeting in Miles City, served on the Region 1 Council, was a participant of the SPAM (strategic planning across Montana) project and am so impressed with the People First Organization. I have also attended the Conferences on Developmental Disabilities.

**What do you think the most important role of the Council should be?**

I think the most important role of the Council is what we just completed which is the projects and programs we are initiating with our five-year plan which will make a difference in the lives of ALL people with disabilities through education, training and experiences.

**What goals would you like to see the Council set? What would you like to see the Council do?**

I believe if the Council continues with the path of the goals we have set up for the next five-years, then we can keep expanding the paths to what these goals will lead us to now and in the future. Doors will open. I would hope the

Council will continue to lead and open each door of opportunity as the opportunity presents itself. I believe we are on the right course and should continue to strive only to reach the biggest and highest dream!

**ETC. . . . .**

We hope this brief and informal newsletter is helpful for Council members and others. If you have a question on any item presented or would like to see additional items in future newsletter please contact Council staff at 866-443-4332.



Happy Valentines Day and Presidents Day!